

Serial No.: 10/070,734

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10-23, as amended, remain herein.

Applicants appreciate the statements in the Office Action that claims 4 and 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the independent claim(s) from which they depend.

Claim 1 has been rewritten to recite all of the limitations of claims 3 and allowable claim 4, thereby making claim 1 allowable. Claim 5 has been rewritten into independent form, reciting all of the limitations of claim 1, thereby making claim 5 allowable. Claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 12 have been edited for clarity.

In new claims 13-23, applicants claim the combination of a holding mechanism and a replacement ink ribbon. None of the cited references discloses the combination of a holding mechanism and a replacement ink ribbon.

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1. Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Schechter U.S. Patent 3,288,323. Claims 2, 6-8 and 10-12 depend from allowable claim 1 and therefore are allowable, and claim 3 has been cancelled. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

All claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10-23 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection cited in the Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of all claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10-23 is respectfully requested.


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Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representatives.

Respectfully submitted,

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December 10, 2003
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